

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter Hoekstra,
U.S. House of Representatives
1124 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

October 20, 2004

Dear Peter:

We are writing to urge you to get a strong intelligence reform bill to the President's desk before Election Day.

It has been over a week since the House and Senate passed divergent versions of intelligence reform, and we are concerned that the conference committee has yet to even meet. We understand that the conference is scheduled to commence today, and we hope that will trigger intense, substantive and rapid discussions that will generate a resolution before November 2.

Many, including 9/11 family members, are concerned that elected officials in Washington are merely stalling until after the election.

We are grateful to Commission Chairman Kean for weighing in last week, when he strongly urged the White House to push for a completed bill in the next two weeks. We completely agree with him that this is a pivotal moment, because public pressure to pass meaningful intelligence reform will lose momentum after the election.

We have a golden and long-overdue opportunity to improve our nation's security, and we must not let it slip by. The process in Washington is stalled, but terrorists plot. Our government warns of an imminent terror threat. Shouldn't we move heaven and earth to upgrade our national security as soon as possible? There is not good reason why we can't come back before election day and get this job done.

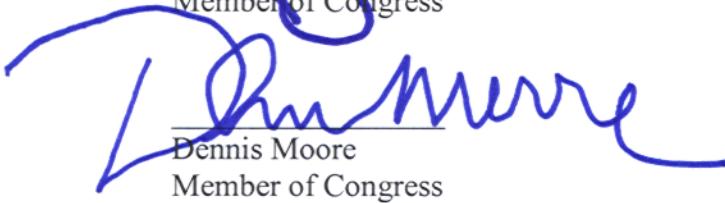
We are grateful for Speaker Hastert's commitment to our constituents and other family members to put a bill on the President's desk by Election Day. As Members of Congress who lost hundreds of constituents on 9/11 and as Americans deeply concerned about our national security, we respectfully submit there is no more time to lose. This country has waited three long years since 9/11 for a security upgrade. It is not that the clock is ticking; the clock already ran out on 9/11.


Sincerely,

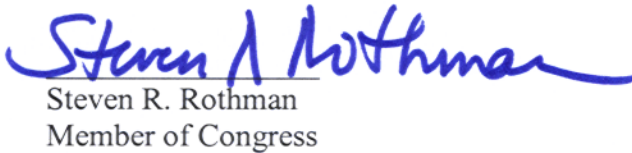

Christopher Shays
Member of Congress

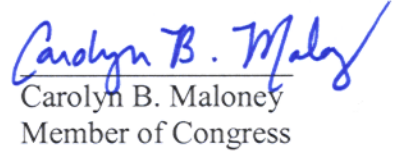

Jim Cooper
Member of Congress


Rob Simmons
Member of Congress



Dennis Moore
Member of Congress

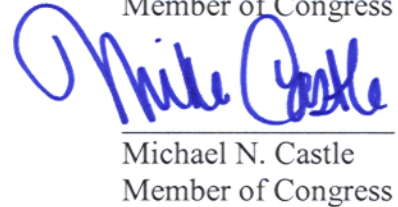

Diane Watson
Member of Congress


Steven R. Rothman
Member of Congress


Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress


Vito Fossella
Member of Congress


Joseph Hoeffel
Member of Congress


Michael N. Castle
Member of Congress


Karen McCarthy
Member of Congress